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One of my favorite parts of this job is the opportunity I get to travel across the state and visit with the folks that keep our Aging network running and keep seniors in their homes. It is inspiring to witness the strong and effective partnership that IDoA staff has with our network.

As I tour the state with my executive team, there are many questions and a lot of uncertainty as we approach a full fiscal year without a balanced budget in place. The strength of our partnership has been critical as we navigate through this together. Having come from the provider network, I understand how important it is to all of our network partners to have consistent and open communication.

My team and I are committed to strengthening this relationship. We will continue touring the state and meeting with providers throughout the summer months. We look forward to a reinvigorated partnership as we work together to serve older adults in Illinois.

Jean Bohnhoff
Director-designate, IDoA

in|theneews

IDoA was excited to participate in last month's Senior Celebration at the State Fairgrounds in Springfield. Our helpful information booth was on full display, complete with two IDoA staffers on hand to answer questions and provide resources.

Seniors at the expo were treated to free blood pressure exams, information and giveaways from hundreds of vendors, and even a bit of entertainment from some senior dancers!

Director Jean Bohnhoff and Deputy Director Jennifer Reif were among the many IDoA employees who attended the festivities. Another successful Senior Celebration down in the history books!



resident'scorner

Submitted by the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman's role has expanded to include advocacy services for individuals receiving services through select Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and medical assistance waivers in the community.

The role of the Home and Community Ombudsman (HCO) is to ensure that individuals are receiving care and services needed through their MCO Plans and/or waiver services program. The HCO investigates and works to resolve participant issues, assists with filing grievances or complaints, provides person centered advocacy, and makes referrals to other entities when appropriate.

The Illinois Long-Term Care Home and Community Ombudsman Program may advocate on behalf of individuals receiving services from the following programs:

The Medicare Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI) is a managed care program for older adults and people with disabilities who have both Medicare and Medicaid residing in the greater Chicago area and 11 central Illinois counties. Individuals enrolled in MMAI receive all medical and behavioral health services, prescription drugs, and long-term services and supports through their respective MCO.

Medicaid Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) is a managed care program for individuals who are eligible for MMAI and are residing in long-term care facilities or receiving services through a Medicaid Waiver program in the greater Chicago area.

The Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) waivers provide services that allow individuals to remain in their own home or live in a community setting. The Illinois Home and Community Ombudsman Program may advocate for individuals in the following waivers: Brain Injury, Persons with Disabilities (Aging), and HIV/AIDS.

If you have any questions about the Long-Term Care Home and Community Ombudsman Program you may email LaRhonda Williams, the Deputy State Long-Term Care Home and Community Ombudsman, at LaRhonda.Williams@illinois.gov or call the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior Helpline, toll-free at 800-252-8966.

WEAAD

Submitted by the Office of Adult Protection

On June 15th, IDoA will come together to recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and reinforce our mission to keep adults safe. We encourage all IDoA staff to wear purple on June 15th to mark the occasion and will have a group photograph taken at 10 a.m. outside the south doors of the building.

IDoA has long been on the forefront of fighting elder abuse; our Elder Abuse Program has been part of the Department since 1991. Three years ago, the Adult Protective Services Act was signed into law which expanded our role giving IDoA the authority to protect persons ages 18-59 with disabilities as well as persons age 60 and older.

Adult abuse and neglect is a vexing problem. Many times, they are abused in their own homes by their own family members. Oftentimes, forms of abuse overlap, and vulnerability can escalate as the victim gets older. In fact, one in five victims is age 86 years old or older.

Though more cases are being reported every year, it has been estimated that for every one reported 23 are not. In the United States alone, that means more than half a million reports reach authorities each year but millions more go unreported.

Read the alarming statistics from the Adult Protective Services FY 2015 Annual Report [here](#).

IDoA is working collaboratively with all agencies and professionals involved and are better prepared to respond to more reports, including self-neglect. Additionally, Fatality Review Teams will soon cover our entire state as stipulated by the APS Act. Teams are operating in PSAs 1-10 and 13, and are currently being formed in PSAs 11 and 12.

Don't forget to show your support by wearing purple on Wednesday, June 15!



at|thecapitol

HB 4826 – Support

IDoA initiative from fatality review team members - Currently, some PSA's fatality review teams have an insufficient caseload of suspicious deaths to justify six meetings per year. In order to maintain strong engagement from volunteer review team members, it is important that each meeting be as productive as possible. Reducing the minimum number of meetings from 6 to 4, or one each quarter, would enable greater productivity and minimize wasted time.

HB 4552 – Support

IDoA initiative from Adult Protective Services - Section 8 of the Illinois Adult Protective Services Act (320 ILCS 20/8) specifies that all APS records are confidential and shall not be disclosed to anyone not specified in the Act. By adding the State's Attorney Office, it will enable APS to better serve its vulnerable population by expediting investigations of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

agencyinsider

Meet IDoA's new General Counsel - Cindy Bushur-Hallam.

Cindy comes to IDoA by way of the Department of Transportation. She brings with her over 20 years of legal experience and a strong background in state government as well as experience in private practice.

During her years at IDOT and IDNR, Cindy was essential in dealing with sensitive legal issues and major policy initiatives.

She received her J.D. from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and is licensed to practice in both Illinois and Iowa.

Cindy is married with 3 children and currently resides with her family in Jacksonville, IL.

brainhealth

Whether young or old, brain health is important. From brain injuries to dementia, it's important to know the facts and what *you* can do to make a difference in your brain health today. Here are some great resources:

1. Brain Health materials

- a. Link to ACL Brain Health as You Age materials (aging & disability services professionals' site): http://www.acl.gov/Get_Help/BrainHealth/Index.aspx
- b. Link to BrainHealth.gov website (consumer site): <http://www.brainhealth.gov/>

2. Business Acumen resources:

- a. <http://www.acl.gov/Programs/CIP/OICI/BusinessAcumen/index.aspx>
- b. <https://www.ncoa.org/wp-content/uploads/Sustainability-Resources.pdf>, includes:
 - i. Diabetes Self-Management Training Toolkit
 - ii. Health Behavior and Assessment Intervention (HBAI) Services – tip sheet for the Medicare reimbursable HBAI intervention
- c. [CMS DSMT Program Recognition Process Tip Sheet \(PDF, 884KB\)](#)

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